Walla Walla University Student Missions Department  
Reopening Global Service Opportunities

Over the course of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Walla Walla University Student Missions Department (WWUSMD) has worked collaboratively with the Office of Adventist Volunteer Service at the General Conference (GCAVS), the Office of Volunteer Ministries at the North American Division (NADOVM), and our sister mission programs at other Adventist educational institutions to bring many SMs home, provide protective measures for SMs still abroad, and develop a response plan to support the continued volunteerism of our students.

Moving forward WWUSMD will reopen global service opportunities using the following framework.

**Domestic Service:** Opportunities for service within the United States will resume in states that have entered Phase Two of the Federal Government’s plan for opening America, provided the organizations are operational. An outline of the government criteria can be found at: [www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/openingamerica/)

**International Service:** Opportunities for service outside the United States will resume under the following three conditions:

1. The Department of State (USDOS) has removed the “Global Level 4 Health Advisory – Do Not Travel.” Updates can be found by visiting [state.gov/travelers](http://state.gov/travelers).
2. The country where a student is deploying will accept foreigners into their country. We will gather this information from news outlets, the USDOS, and foreign embassies.
3. The overseas organization receiving the student missionary (e.g. school, church, clinic) is operational.

If these three conditions are met, locations will be cleared individually by the Chaplain’s Office using guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Mapping, the USDOS, GCAVS, and NADOVM.

Students will be informed if they will need to quarantine upon arrival at an international destination. As before, an SM will not be sent to a country that has a level 4 travel advisory for any reason. All students will be encouraged to wear a mask when traveling.

**Contingency Plan:** We believe it is unlikely that every location where students plan to serve will be deemed fit for service by the fall quarter. As such, the following options will be offered to students whose location has not met the aforementioned criteria two weeks prior to their expected departure date:

1. Transfer to another location (domestic or international) deemed fit for service
   a. Travel adjustments will be made at no cost to the student
   b. We are working with GCAVS and NADOVM to ensure we can meet the demand for students who want to serve.
      i. Elbert Kuhn, ACS Director at the General Conference, released a statement on April 16: “The office is screening and processing volunteers and student missionaries as usual. We are also taking seriously, following, and closely monitoring all country’s health situations and safety levels, as well as the USDOS and CDC decisions and guidelines. At the moment, we are requesting divisions/organizations to assess the situation before the volunteer or [SM] travels to be sure it is safe for them to travel.”
i. Ken Norton, President of Guam-Micronesia Mission, noted that much of their territory still has no confirmed cases, and is working to provide late acceptance to SMs who are unable to serve in other international service locations.

ii. Dan Cheung, President of Hong Kong Adventist College, wrote on April 23, “Shops and restaurants have been opened and schools will be reopened soon. I do hope some student missionaries would consider coming to serve in Hong Kong.”

2. Defer their service and enroll in regular fall courses*
   a. Application and training information will remain on file for future service.
   b. Donations solicited by students for Student Missions will remain earmarked in the student’s missions account for the duration of their time as a WWU students. These funds will be usable to the student for any WWU-sponsored mission experience. After the student graduates, any remaining donated funds held under their name will be transferred to the Student Missionary Emergency Fund.
      i. WWUSMD donation letters have been revised to clearly communicate this policy.

3. Students who wish to register for a regular fall course-load to be safe may do so. In the event that they do deploy for service, they may drop their regular courses and ask WWUSMD to enroll them in the student missions SMTF100 Experiential Credit Program.

Moving Forward:

1. At present, WWUSMD will continue supporting our students currently deployed overseas and domestically. We will also work with future SMs to finish the training, application, and fundraising processes.

2. In the month of July, we will begin assessing individual countries to determine if they are fit for students to serve, and communicate our decisions to relevant stakeholders.

3. In the event that the USDOS does not remove the “Global Level 4 Health Advisory” by August 17, 2020, WWUSMD will advise students to defer their service until January 2021 or later. If the advisory is not removed by September 14, one week prior to the day WWU opens for fall quarter, WWUSMD will not launch any students who have not completed an undergraduate degree until January 2021.

4. Recognizing that the coronavirus will likely still be present months to come. If travel advisories are lowered from a level 4- globally, travelers will need to accept the risk of traveling to areas where the virus exists. Student missionaries have always accepted risks by traveling to places where they could potentially acquire malaria, yellow fever, dengue, and other medical conditions. Though there is more information on the risks of these diseases and in some cases vaccines currently available, as new research and information come available about coronavirus, we will adapt accordingly.